

ARCHIVING IN WORKFLOW MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A method of optimizing a workflow management system (WFMS), the method being executable
by the WFMS on at least one computer system. The WFMS accesses a database comprising of at
least one process model and instantiations of the process model (process instances). The method
contemplates transferring objects of the database to an archive database (archive function). This
transfer is preferably carried out in case that a predetermined event occurs or if these objects are
10 not currently used by the WFMS. Preferably the objects to be transferred to the archive database
are process instances. These process instances are preferably selected among all instances of a
certain process model depending on the value of certain properties of this process model. The
objects of the database which are transferred to the archive database can also be process models.
Additionally the data that is managed by the applications that implement the various activities of
15 the process model can be transferred too by having user programs moving the data from the
regular application store to an application archive store. Furthermore the method contemplates
transferring the WFMS objects back to the WFMS database as well as transferring the data in the
application archive store back to the application store when the archived WFMS objects are
needed again (restore function).